

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for distributing a program sent by a content distributor to  
2 a user location, the method comprising:  
3 receiving a command from the content distributor to store the program at  
4 the user location;  
5 processing the command;  
6 receiving the program at the user location;  
7 storing the program at the user location in response to at least the  
8 processing the command; and  
9 detecting a user action related to the program after storage of the program.

1 2. The method for distributing the program sent by the content  
2 distributor to the user location as recited in claim 1, wherein the program comprises at  
3 least one of a commercial, an infomercial, a show, and a movie.

1 3. The method for distributing the program sent by the content  
2 distributor to the user location as recited in claim 1, wherein the program comprises at  
3 least one of a video program and an audio program.

1 4. The method for distributing the program sent by the content  
2 distributor to the user location as recited in claim 1, wherein the user location comprises a  
3 set top box.

1 5. The method for distributing the program sent by the content  
2 distributor to the user location as recited in claim 1, wherein the storing the program  
3 comprises storing the program on a mass storage device associated with a set top box that  
4 is associated with the user location.

1 6. The method for distributing the program sent by the content  
2 distributor to the user location as recited in claim 1, further comprising:  
3 determining a subset of programs from a linear schedule of programs  
4 associated with the content distributor; and  
5 transmitting the subset to the user location.

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1 7. The method for distributing the program sent by the content  
2 distributor to the user location as recited in claim 1, wherein the processing the command  
3 comprises determining usage rules related to the program.

1 8. A method for distributing a program sent by a content distributor to  
2 a user location, the method comprising:  
3 commanding the user location to store the program from the content  
4 distributor; and  
5 sending the program to the user location for storage before a user requests  
6 the program.

1 9. The method for distributing the program sent by the content  
2 distributor to the user location as recited in claim 8, further comprising determining a  
3 subset of programs from a larger set of programs.

1 10. The method for distributing the program sent by the content  
2 distributor to the user location as recited in claim 8, further comprising determining usage  
3 rules for the program.

1 11. The method for distributing the program sent by the content  
2 distributor to the user location as recited in claim 8, further comprising sending usage  
3 rules for the program to the user location.

1 12. The method for distributing the program sent by the content  
2 distributor to the user location as recited in claim 8, wherein the program is unmentioned  
3 in a linear schedule.

1 13. The method for distributing the program sent by the content  
2 distributor to the user location as recited in claim 8, further comprising broadcasting the  
3 program to a plurality of user locations.

1 14. A distribution program product for distributing a program sent by a  
2 content distributor to a user location, the distribution program product comprising:  
3 code for receiving a command from the content distributor to store the  
4 program at the user location;  
5 code for processing the command;

6 code for receiving the program at the user location;  
7 code for storing the program at the user location in response to at least the  
8 processing the command;  
9 code for detecting a user request for the program after storage of the  
10 program; and  
11 a computer-readable medium for storing the codes.

1                   15. The distribution program product for distributing the program sent  
2 by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 14, wherein the program  
3 comprises at least one of a commercial, an infomercial, a reoccurring show, and a movie.

1                   16. The distribution program product for distributing the program sent  
2 by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 14, wherein the program  
3 comprises at least one of a video program and an audio program.

1                   17. The distribution program product for distributing the program sent  
2 by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 14, wherein the user  
3 location comprises a set top box.

1                   18. The distribution program product for distributing the program sent  
2 by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 14, wherein the code for  
3 storing the program comprises code for storing the program on a mass storage device  
4 associated with a set top box that is associated with the user location.

1                   19. The distribution program product for distributing the program sent  
2 by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 14, further comprising:  
3                   code for determining a subset of programs from a linear schedule of  
4 programs associated with the content distributor; and  
5                   code for transmitting the subset to the user location.

1                   20. The distribution program product for distributing the program sent  
2 by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 14, wherein the code for  
3 processing the command comprises code for determining usage rules related to the  
4 program.